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8
9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
10 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
11

12 SINGAPORE TECHNOLOGIES
MARINE, LTD.,

13 Plaintiffs,

14 vs.

15 PACIFIC PRINCESS PARTNERSHIP
16 LTD., OCEANS UNLIMITED, INC.,
and ONOSAI FESULUAI FAALELE,

17 Defendants.
18
19

Case No. '14CV1734 W KSC

**COMPLAINT FOR
DECLARATORY JUDGMENT AND
DAMAGES**

In Admiralty And Diversity

20
21 COMES NOW Plaintiff SINGAPORE TECHNOLOGIES MARINE, LTD.
22 (hereinafter "S.T. Marine" or "Plaintiff"), and for its Complaint for Declaratory
23 Judgment and Damages (the "Complaint") against PACIFIC PRINCESS
24 PARTNERSHIP LTD. ("Pacific Princess"), OCEANS UNLIMITED, INC.
25 ("Oceans"), and ONOSAI FESULUAI FAALELE ("Faalele") (Pacific Princess,
26 Oceans and Faalele are referred to collectively herein as "Defendants"), alleges
27 as follows:
28

PRELIMINARY ALLEGATIONS

A. Jurisdiction

1. Jurisdiction exists in admiralty pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1333, and this Court also has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(2), on account of diversity of citizenship. The amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

2. This is an admiralty and maritime claim, involving a dispute over a maritime death and a marine ship repair contract, within the meaning of Rule 9(h) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

B. Venue

3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because Pacific Princess and Oceans are residents of this District, are owned by a resident of this District, have their principal places of business in this District, and are managed from this District. Defendant Faalele also resides in this District. Further, Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that a substantial part of the events and omissions giving rise to this dispute occurred within this District.

C. Parties and Citizenship

4. Plaintiff S.T. Marine at all times was, and is now, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Singapore, with its principal and only place of business in Singapore.

5. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Defendant Pacific Princess is a Nevada corporation, with its principal place of business at 4102 Avanti Drive, San Diego, California, within this District, which regularly does business in California, and which owns all or a portion of the fishing vessel PACIFIC PRINCESS.

6. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Defendant Oceans is a Nevada corporation, with a place of business at San Diego,

1 California, within this District, which regularly does business in California, and
2 which owns all or a portion of the F/V PACIFIC PRINCESS.

3 7. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that
4 Defendant Faalele resides in San Diego, California, within this District.

5 **D. Defendants' Claims**

6 8. On or about December 7, 2009, Pacific Princess entered into a Bimco
7 Standard Ship Repair Contract (the "ship repair contract") with Plaintiff S.T.
8 Marine. A true and correct copy of the ship repair contract is attached hereto as
9 Exhibit A, and is incorporated herein by reference. The contract was signed in
10 Singapore by Ricardo Da Rosa, whom Plaintiff is informed and believes is the
11 President of Pacific Princess. The contract called for S.T. Marine to perform certain
12 repair and maintenance work in Singapore on the fishing vessel PACIFIC
13 PRINCESS, which Plaintiff is informed and believes is owned by Defendant Pacific
14 Princess and/or Oceans. Pursuant to the contract, Plaintiff refurbished and changed
15 the seals on the mid-starboard auxiliary hydraulic crane (the "crane") of the F/V
16 PACIFIC PRINCESS. This work was performed in early 2010, under the direct
17 supervision of the owner's representative, the vessel's chief engineer, and an expert
18 hired from Australia, who performed all testing on the vessel's hydraulic equipment.
19 All work done by Plaintiff was approved by those three individuals.

20 9. About fifteen months later, on or about August 9, 2011, the crane was
21 overloaded by the crew of the F/V PACIFIC PRINCESS and/or by stevedores'
22 employees in American Samoa, where the vessel was unloading fish. The hydraulic
23 cylinder which lifts the crane burst, the boom of the crane dropped precipitously and
24 hit decedent Papu Faalele on the head, killing him.

25 **E. Litigation**

26 10. On or about May 23, 2013, Defendant Faalele, the widow of decedent
27 Papu Faalele, filed a lawsuit in the San Diego Superior Court, naming as defendants
28 only Pacific Princess and Oceans. Faalele's complaint seeks damages on her own

1 behalf and on behalf of her eight minor children for the death of her husband Papu
 2 Faalele. Pacific Princess and Oceans have filed answers in the lawsuit, but no party
 3 has filed a claim therein against Plaintiff S.T. Marine. S.T. Marine is not a party to
 4 that action. In connection with the aforementioned suit, the hydraulic cylinder
 5 which burst was recently subjected to destructive testing in El Segundo, California,
 6 at the request of counsel for Defendants.

7 **F. Claims Against S.T. Marine**

8 11. Recently, Pacific Princess, Oceans and Faalele have made claims and
 9 threats of litigation against Plaintiff. They allege that in 2010, Plaintiff S.T. Marine
 10 negligently repaired the hydraulic cylinder of the crane on the F/V PACIFIC
 11 PRINCESS; that S.T. Marine repainted the cylinder without adequately removing
 12 underlying rust and corrosion, which was painted over; that the hydraulic cylinder
 13 was so badly deteriorated that it should have been replaced and not repaired; and
 14 that S.T. Marine should have so advised Pacific Princess and Oceans.

15 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

16 **Against all Defendants**

17 **(Declaratory Relief – No Personal Jurisdiction in**
 18 **California Over S.T. Marine)**

19 12. Plaintiff hereby realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1
 20 through 11, inclusive, of this Complaint, as if set forth in full herein.

21 13. Plaintiff is a Singapore corporation which is resident in and operates
 22 only in Singapore. It owns no property in California, has no employees in
 23 California, does no advertising in California, maintains no bank accounts or agents
 24 for service of process in California, and is otherwise not “present and doing
 25 business” in California.

26 14. Defendants allege both that Plaintiff is liable to them, and that Plaintiff
 27 is subject to personal jurisdiction in California. Plaintiff disputes both of these
 28 assertions.

1 duties and obligations under the ship repair contract, at law and in equity, and in
2 particular as they relate to the death of Papu Faalele. Therefore Plaintiff herein
3 seeks a declaration of its rights and obligations, a declaration that Plaintiff is not
4 subject to personal jurisdiction in American Samoa, and otherwise as set forth
5 below, under the law of admiralty and the U.S. Constitutional requirements for
6 personal jurisdiction.

7 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**
8 **Against Pacific Princess and Oceans**
9 **(Tort of Another)**

10 21. Plaintiff hereby realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1
11 through 20, inclusive, of this Complaint, as if set forth in full herein.

12 22. As a direct and proximate result of Pacific Princess' and Oceans'
13 actions, errors and/or omissions, S.T. Marine has been compelled to retain counsel
14 and incur fees and expenses, on account of the allegations being made against
15 Plaintiff by Pacific Princess and Oceans.

16 23. Plaintiff has incurred, and will continue to incur, substantial attorneys'
17 fees and costs in addressing and possibly litigating the issue of personal jurisdiction
18 over Plaintiff in the courts of California and/or American Samoa. Plaintiff is
19 entitled to recover those fees and costs from Defendants Pacific Princess and
20 Oceans, with interest, under the doctrine of wrongful act/tort of another, since the
21 claims by Defendants against Plaintiff were and are baseless.

22 24. To the extent Plaintiff may make a settlement or settlements with
23 Faalele, and/or other parties, or if Plaintiff incurs other liability, Plaintiff is entitled
24 to recover the amount(s) of same from Defendants Pacific Princess and Oceans,
25 with interest, under the doctrine of wrongful act/tort of another, under the ship repair
26 contract, and in equity.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff S.T. Marine prays for judgment against Pacific Princess, Oceans and Faalele as follows:

1. For a judicial resolution of the dispute and a determination of the rights and duties of Plaintiff and Defendants with respect to the claims made against Plaintiff by Defendants, such a declaration being necessary and appropriate at this time so that Plaintiff and Defendants may ascertain their rights and duties, if any;

2. For a declaration that Plaintiff is not now, and never was, subject to personal jurisdiction in the courts of the state of California, or the federal courts within California;

3. For a declaration that Plaintiff is not now, and never was, subject to personal jurisdiction in the courts of American Samoa;

4. For a declaration that any claims by Pacific Princess and/or Oceans against Plaintiff must be presented and resolved only in Singapore, pursuant to paragraph 12 of the ship repair contract;

5. For a declaration that any state or federal court in California is an inconvenient forum for resolution of claims against Plaintiff and disputes under the ship repair contract, which was signed in Singapore and is subject to English law;

6. For a declaration that any court in American Samoa is an inconvenient forum for resolution of claims against Plaintiff and disputes under the ship repair contract, which was signed in Singapore and is subject to English law;

7. For a declaration that, pursuant to the ship repair contract, which is subject to English law, Pacific Princess and/or Oceans is/are legally and contractually responsible for the death of Papu Faalele, irrespective of the cause of death, and whether or not caused by the negligence or gross negligence of either Pacific Princess or Oceans, or both of them, and that accordingly Pacific Princess and Oceans must accept responsibility for his death;

13 | DATED: July 23, 2014

SEVERSON & WERSON
A Professional Corporation

By: /s/ Forrest Booth
Forrest Booth

Attorneys for Plaintiff
SINGAPORE TECHNOLOGIES MARINE, LTD.